NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

CONTINUANCE OF MILK IN COWS.

Messrs. Editors—It certainly would be a very great advantage to those who wish to keep a cow or cows solely for their milk, if any feasible method could be adopted by which cows could be made permanent milkers, or their owners, particularly those who live in cities, be saved the trouble and inconvenience of their breeding. There are two ways in which this seems practicable. The first method is to keep the cow from the bull, by constantly stabling her, after her first and second calf, and in this state, milked regularly and well fed, she will continue to give milk for two or more years. She usually ends, however, by becoming too fat for profit as a milker, her milk gradually failing, and then she goes to the butcher. The large dairies of London, have their cows treated in this manner, and in practice it is found far preferable to the old one, of having them "*come in*" annually.

There is another method of obtaining constant milkers, which has been extensively practiced in France, and known to some extent in this country. This is by spaying the cow some four or six weeks after calving, and thus by preventing impregnation, securing the cow in milk for several years. In the London Veterinarian may be found a paper by M. Rogere, of Bordeaux, in France, who had for many years been engaged in a series of experiments on this subject, that had been eminently successful. The cows operated upon were of various ages, some quite old. The operation of spaying was followed with a restricted diet, to prevent the tendency to inflammation. This had the effect of reducing the quantity of milk for a few days, but the flow soon returned, and continued unaffected for a long time. No danger was incurred by the operation when skilfully performed, and when from age or failure of milk, it became desirable to make beef of the animal, she was found altogether superior for that purpose to the unspayed ones.

In one of the earlier volumes of Ruffin's Farmer's Register, may be found a paper on spaying cows or heifers, not only for milk, but for feeding. Mr Tabb, of Virginia, under whose superintendence the operations were conducted, confirms the representations made of the value of milch cows so operated upon, but thinks it not less essential or important where cows or heifers are to be fed. The following extract is from Mr Tabb's paper: "The operation is performed on heifers not intended for milk, when they are about a year old, and with the single precaution of keeping them entirely from food or water during twentyfour or thirtysix hours previous—is not attended with any risk—is performed in the same way, and may be done by any person in the habit of spaying pigs. They go to their food immediately after, and require no attention. We select the most indifferent heifers to spay, which is one way to improve the stock. You increase the size amazingly. They gradually become as large as ordinary oxen—are easily kept—make the finest beef– and as they are not in perfection until six or seven years old, we work them after three or four, to make them gentle, and for that purpose, consider them superior to the ox."

The practice of working milch cows is common in Germany, as appears from the accounts of various travellers in that country; and teams of spayed heifers have carried off prizes at the plowing matches of Agricultural Societies in England. The suggestion made above, by Mr Tabb, that spaying has a good effect in the improvement of stock, is an important one. If the breeders of stock could so far forego the hope of immediate profit, as to be willing to submit all inferior, or part blood bull calves to castration, and all inferior heifers to spaying, it is evident the chances of breeding inferior animals, would rapidly diminish.

Mr Winn, keeper of an extensive hotel at Natchez, communicated to Judge Peters, of Pennsylvania, the result of experiments made by him in spaying cows for the purpose of securing permanent milkers. It appears from the paper as given in the Transactions of the Penn. Ag. Society, that he had two cows, which after being spayed, gave milk constantly for three years each. He preferred cows that had produced two or three calves, as the bags of such would be more capacious than if spayed after the first calf. I hope some of our breeders or farmers will try this experiment, since, if successful, there can be no doubt such cows would command greatly advanced prices in places where cows are kept for their milk alone.

—*Alb. Cult.* A FARMER.

PLANT TREES.

It is really distressing to the eye of taste, to witness the number of farm-houses in our ancient Commonwealth, which stand exposed, as it were, in the open fields, without a shrub or a grass-plot to cheer the inmates, or even so much as a friendly tree to protect them from the glare of the summer's sun. No resident of our naked villages, who has enjoyed a promenade beneath the arching elms which adorn the avenues of New Haven and other eastern towns, can fail to be humbled by the contrast, and to lament the tasteless, cruel negligence, the melancholy want of forecast, which has prevailed among our own people. This repulsive feature of barbarism should be no longer tolerated. The beautiful shade trees which surround the dwelling, as they grow old, become associated with pleasant reminiscences in the family, and exert a delightful moral influence. The children, who have grown up and disported beneath their spreading boughs, become fondly attached to them, and strongly disposed to guard and preserve them. The touching song of our countryman, Morris, owes its popularity no less to a deep seated principle in our nature, than to the engaging simplicity and pathos of its numbers. Every one who has spent the summer days of youth under the lovely shade around the paternal domicil, will be as ready as the poet to exclaim,

"Woodman! Spare that tree!"

Every descendant of the patriarch who planted it, will interpose to save the venerable tree which sheltered the home of his childhood; and will remonstrate with the *Vandal* who may threaten it, in the earnest and moving accents of the bard—

"'Twas my forefather's hand
That placed it near this cot—
There, woodman! let it stand—
Thy axe shall harm it not.

When but an idle boy,
I sought its grateful shade:
In all their gushing joy,
Here, too, my sisters played.

My mother kissed me here—
My father pressed my hand:
Forgive this foolish tear—
But let that old tree stand!"

Such reminiscences of our purer days deserve to be fondly cherished, and should never be obliterated by the sterner pursuits of after life. The tasteful arrangement of trees and shrubbery on a farm, not only conduces to real comfort, but is the surest indication of a gentle, cultivated and truly civilized people. It demonstrates that boorish rudeness has been superseded by refined feelings, and a just appreciation of the beauties of Nature. How delightful to the toil-worn farmer, in the evening of life, to repose in the shade of the trees which he has planted with his own hands! How grateful to the heir of the paternal mansion, to enjoy the umbrageous shelter provided by the care and taste of his revered progenitor! The shade tree, thus becomes, as it were, a cherished member of an affectionate family. Its longevity renders it an abiding friend of succeeding generations—a silent but most interesting witness of the advent and departure of children, and of children's children—while its aged trunk remains an emblem and a precious memorial of a long line of venerated ancestry.—*Dr. Darlington's Address before the Philadelph. Agricul. Soc.*

Unproductive Land.—How many are there who own from 300 to 500, and even more acres of land, of which one-third, or at least one-sixth part lies totally unproductive in useless brush-wood, in uncleared swamps, or in land rendered worse than profitless, for want of proper draining? the owner not seeming to remember that for every such acre not yielding something in grass, in pasturage, in tillage, or in growing timber, he should charge himself, as with so much lost or thrown into the fire or the sea. There is no mistake more common than that of supposing that the more land a man has, the greater must be his profits—forgetting that the profits arise not from the land itself, any more than from an idle mill or ship, but from the skill and manner of using it; and so indispensable is capital in the business of farming, that in general it may be laid down as an axiom, that money employed in agriculture, will yield an interest in an inverse ratio to the area to which it is applied. Thus if $100 be expended, and yield 10 per cent. on ten acres, the probability is that it would yield much more if applied to half that area. —*Skinner's Address.*

It was a maxim of Euripedes either to keep silence, or to speak something better than silence.

For the N. E Farmer.

EXPERIMENTS WITH GUANO AND OTHER CONDENSED MANURES.

Important particularly as it relates to Indian Corn.

The ground experimented upon was a thin sandy soil, which for forty years has not produced a single decent grass crop, and the routine has usually been, two or three years Indian corn, at about 20 or 25 bushels per acre—then oats with grass seed, cut in the milk for fodder, and followed for one or two years with scanty crops of sorrel, say 1-3 or 1-2 ton to the acre. To my certain knowledge, several seedings of grass seed have been thrown away upon it, (I know not how many.) The soil, (as formerly cultivated) not being capable of growing either herds-grass or clover.

Three acres of this lot were enclosed and cultivated as a garden two years ago last April. These experiments were on the third year's tillage. The two former crops had been principally potatoes, and the whole enclosure covered with fruit trees. The manure used the two former years was a weak compost of stable dung and earth—perhaps 2-3 soil, 1-3 dung—and used altogether round the trees and in the hill. In May, 1844, I procured guano, Valentine's artificial guano, poudrette, bone-dust, ground plaster, and unslacked lime.

First experiment, on young apple trees—a row of ten each. Two teaspoonsfull of guano and artificial guano, and a gill of poudrette, bone-dust, plaster, lime and compost—two dressings worked in round the tree. The difference to the eye was little, and I at least fancied the rows where the poudrette was used, looked the best. In measuring the growth of the most thrifty trees in each row, however, it was found where guano was used, the growth was the greatest; artificial guano next; poudrette third; the bone, plaster, lime, and compost, much alike—none differing, however, but a few inches. These apple trees were set out the autumn previous. On peach trees of two years standing, where guano was applied, the growth was remarkable—from two to four feet, on perhaps fifty trees.

Second experiment—on potatoes: two rows each—two teaspoons of guano and artificial guano; one applied with the seed, the other about three weeks after: poudrette, plaster, bone, two gills each; one with the seed, the other three weeks after. Result: Guano, 28 hills to the bushel; artificial guano, 37; poudrette, 36; bone, 34; plaster with compost, 25; compost, 25. This experiment, I will acknowledge, was not exactly a fair test, as the four last rows of plaster and compost were diverging towards the low land, and of course the soil of itself was richer.

Third experiment—on Indian corn: Two teaspoonsfull of guano and artificial guano; two gills of poudrette, bone, plaster and lime, (the two last with compost)—two dressings—one with the seed, the other about three weeks after, round each hill. This field consisted of 51 rows, and about 100 hills in a row, making not far from 5100 hills, within the compass of a little over an acre. There were six rows manured with guano, five with artificial guano, four with poudrette, two with bone, two with plaster, two with lime—the plaster and lime with compost. The remaining thirty were manured with ordinary compost, probably one-third stable dung. I would remark, that three sides of this field were surrounded with a path where the black soil had been thrown out, probably doubling the black mould on the two rows next the path. This had enriched the ground much, and you could tell by the eye was the best manure applied. On this account, I have given the result of four rows of guano, in order to make the experiment minutely fair. The result of this experiment was as follows: Two rows manured with guano, on the outside or double soil, gave 6 1-3 baskets; two rows next the artificial guano, 4 3-4 baskets; Valentine's artificial guano, 4 1-4 baskets; ground bone, 4 1-4 baskets; compost with plaster, 4 baskets; compost with lime, 3 baskets; compost, 3 1-3 baskets; whole yield in 51 rows, 107 baskets; two baskets when shelled, measuring 33 1-2 quarts—weight, 65 pounds.

As a warning to all who may use guano on Indian corn, I would state that it will not answer to put it in contact with the seed. By so doing, but a few stragglers came up, and I planted it all over again. Perhaps it would answer to place the guano on the top of each hill, to be slightly raked in; but I am convinced by the foregoing experiment, that the least particle which comes in contact with the seed destroys the vegetating principle. The lime, likewise, which was used unslacked, killed the corn, and although replanted at the same time with that killed by the guano, produced less than compost without lime.

I would call the attention of the farmer to the product of the two rows manured with guano on the soil improved by the black mould thrown out from the paths. Here were 6 1-3 baskets, whereas the two rows manured by compost yielded only 3 1-3 baskets. Here was almost double on two rows, and the stalks and stover in proportion—frequently being from 8 to 12 suckers, besides the ordinary stalks. The yield of the whole field was fair, producing nearly or quite 50 bushels to the acre. Thus it will at once be seen that with a covering of black mould and two teaspoonsfull of guano, the yield can be doubled. As to this loam, either black or yellow, it is too much overlooked by farmers generally. As a compost with stable manure, or by itself, as in this instance, it is almost invaluable. It matters little where taken from: it enriches the soil and improves the crops. This field of corn land is extremely equal throughout, and this experiment, if I mistake not, is worthy of some attention. The two rows manured with two teaspoonsfull of guano only, yielded 4 3-4 baskets, being 33 per cent. more than compost: artificial guano, poudrette, bone and plaster, about 25 per cent over compost. It would appear that all these condensed manures are highly beneficial to corn, but that guano does the best.

Somerville, Dec. 4, 1844. G. C. H.

We would be obliged to others who have made experiments with guano the past season, if they would send us the results for publication. We are particularly desirous to learn the effect of guano on Indian corn. As this crop is not grown in England, none of the many experiments made with guano there, have shown its effects on corn. So far as the above experiment extended, it shows a result highly favorable for this manure as a dressing for the corn crop.—Ed.

Mr Pell, of Ulster county, N. Y., has an orchard of twenty thousand trees, bearing the Newton Pippins.

Feed all fattening animals with perfect regularity—enough, but not too much.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. PROCTOR'S ADDRESS.

Subsoil Plow and Plowing.—"Allow me for a moment to ask your attention to the *subsoil plow*, with which I presume you are but little, if any acquainted. Although known for years in Europe, and in some parts of our own country, I am not aware that it has been much used in this county. It is made to follow in the furrow directly after the common surface plow, loosening and moving the earth to the depth of six or eight inches below the first furrow, without bringing any part of it to the surface. The advantage to be derived from such loosening is, that the superabundant moisture settles down to the bottom of the furrow, and there is a constant operation of the atmosphere, which gradually converts it into productive soil. It thus produces all the benefits of deep plowing, without the disadvantage of the admixture of an undue proportion of unproductive ingredients in the soil. The soil thus moved will afford space for the extension of the roots or fibres of the plants, so that in seasons of drought they will be less likely to fail. And the ultimate consequence will be, if the land is properly manured, an additional depth to the soil,—say instead of 6 or 7 inches, there will be found 10 or 12 inches. For root crops, and many others, such an alteration must be of great value. Where this process of subsoil plowing has been tried for a number of years successively, and the subsoil has been gradually mixing with the upper soil, the whole has been found so completely changed as to be capable of producing crops that could not before have been cultivated to any advantage.

Mr Phinney, of Lexington, to whom the agricultural community are under great obligations, for his numerous and well conducted experiments, particularly those in the management of grass lands, first brought the subsoil plows into use in this vicinity, about three or four years since. The pattern then used has been much improved by different manufacturers—some specimens of which have this day been exhibited and tried. Mr Phinney, who has used this plow on many acres of his own farm, informed me that the productive quality of his soil, for many crops, had been increased fifty per cent. by its use. On a question of practical cultivation, there is no man's opinion more worthy of regard."

[The following note is appended to the above:]

"In a recent letter received from Mr Phinney, he says: 'I have used the subsoil plow some three or four years, and such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground. The character of our *soil* and *climate* are both such, being subject to the extremes of wet and dry, as to render the use of the subsoil plow of more essential benefit here than in England, and if *one-half* the effects from its use, said to be produced in that country, are realized here, no farmer should be without a subsoil plow. The substratum with us, is either a hard gravel or clay. Both are greatly benefited by the use of this plow. In case of too much wet, the redundancy of water is absorbed by loosening the subsoil—when too dry, the plants can find support by being enabled to extend their roots deeper in search of moisture. Our crops, particularly our potatoes and other *root* crops, as they are called, often suffer from droughts that almost invariably occur in our climate in August or

September. A failure of these crops is oftener owing to this than any other cause. Without resorting to the test of experiment, can any rational farmer doubt that this obstacle to the productiveness of our soil, may be, in a great measure, overcome by loosening the subsoil. In our old fields, which have been cultivated for many years, with the use of no other than the common plow, an *under crust* has been formed by the travelling of the oxen and movement of the plow for a long time, at a few inches below the surface. This is generally so hard as to be impenetrable by the roots of plants, and hence the necessity of breaking this crust by the subsoil plow. A soil having close, hard gravel, or a stiff clay bottom, may perhaps derive equal benefit from the use of the subsoil plow. Most of my observations, with regard to its beneficial effects have been upon the former, having but little land with a clay bottom. The objections to deep plowing that exist in the minds of some farmers, cannot apply to subsoil plowing, inasmuch as the poorer part of the soil is loosened, but not brought to the surface.'

Mr P. states that he has used a subsoil plow constructed by Prouty & Mears, and is pleased with it. The best specimen of subsoil plow that I have seen, was made by C. Howard, of Hingham. This obtained the first premium of the State Society the present year. It is of medium size, and can be procured for about $10. Ruggles & Co. have also made a variety of patterns of these plows."

Collecting and Saving Manure.—"The farmer should endeavor to find within his own precincts the means of replenishing his soil. His main reliance, after having taken proper care of his barn-cellar, his barn-yard, and his pig-pen, should be on his collection of compost. It is believed that almost every farmer will find within his own limits, or in his immediate vicinity, abundant materials for this purpose. When not necessarily employed in other things, his attention should always be given to the collecting or saving something that will increase his supply of manure. The careful cultivator will find many opportunities in the course of the year to add to this mainspring of good husbandry. 'Let no man,' says Mr Quincy, who is equally at home on the farm as in the college, 'consider his barn-yard properly arranged, until he has a receptacle for his manure, water-tight at the bottom, and covered at the top; so that below nothing shall be lost by drainage, and above nothing shall be carried away by evaporation.'

What would be said of that farmer who, when he had raised his field of grain, should suffer it to remain exposed until one-half of it was scattered by the winds, or otherwise lost? Do we not see a destruction equal to this, in their collections of manure? Is it extravagant to say that one-half of the manure ordinarily made by the cattle on a farm, is wasted? Look to the common structure of barns, where the manure is thrown out to the sides, exposed to the sun and rain for half the year; or to the yards where the cows pass their nights in summer; and compare the products of these barns, at the end of the year, with receptacles for the manure properly regulated, and I doubt whether there will reman half the quantity. Take into view, further, the increase that may be made by placing the cattle in position to preserve the liquids that are about every stall, by the aid of which, mingled with earth, may be made the best of manure, and it will not be too much to say that our farmers generally lose two-thirds of the materials they have at command for enriching their lands. How many of them, not satisfied with the losses thus accruing, take special care to draw their manure to the fields when made, and to lay it in a position that will effectually scatter a large proportion of the virtue that remains? Or when they come to use it, spread it upon the surface, and thus lose its fertilizing powers? Again and again, has it been demonstrated, when manure is applied to land, its tendency is to *ascend*, and not to *descend*. An examination of the subsoils on lands that have long been under a state of high cultivation, proves this. It is therefore indispensable in the application of manure to the best advantage, that it should be mingled with and covered by the earth. Care also should be taken that it be properly pulverized or subdivided, so that when mingled with the soil, the union be as perfect as possible. Recent experiments of Professor Liebig, show that *ammonia*, or the power to produce this, is the principal fertilizing ingredient in manure. As much care, therefore, should be taken of this in the field, as in the smelling bottle at church."

Cultivation of Grass.—"Among the improvements of a few years past, there are none that promise more than those in the cultivation of grass. The peculiarity of this culture, first brought to the notice of the public by Mr Phinney, is, that the land is continued in grass, year after year, without the intervention of any other crop, except occasionally Indian corn. Thus far it has succeeded well. It is done by turning the furrows flat, rolling them smooth, harrowing or cross-plowing, or both, without disturbing the sod, applying compost manures and the seed upon the surface and harrowing it in. This process is repeated as often as the land demands a coating of manure. The land is kept in a light and favorable condition for supporting the crops, by the decaying vegetable matter that was upon the surface.

Another modification in the cultivation of grass, which has been successfully practiced by Mr D. Putnam, of Danvers, and others, is by sowing the seed among the corn at the last hoeing—taking care to have the ground left in a level and smooth condition. Repeated experiments have shown that the old practice of raising a hill about the corn is not attended with any benefit. If, then, the smooth culture of the corn will aid in bringing the lands into good condition for grass, which is the primary object in view—our crops of barley, oats and rye being raised merely as secondary objects of attention—does it not behoove our farmers to inquire whether their grass seed cannot be advantageously sown in the summer or autumn, without any intermediate crop of grain?"

Messrs. Downing of Newburg, says the Albany Cultivator, practice a new mode of pruning peach trees; at least, it is new to us. It is cutting off half or two-thirds of the new wood of the limbs, every autumn. The advantages are, that the wood hardens better—the soft and tender twigs, not sufficiently matured to stand the winter, and which are besides most likely to be injured by the aphis or other insects, are taken away, by which the sap and wood of the remainder, are rendered more sound and healthy. The number of fruit buds for the succeeding year are increased, and there are plenty of leaves, by which the sap is more perfectly elaborated and the fruit is much larger and higher flavored.

Improved Farming in Virginia.—Mr. H. R. Robey, near Fredericksburg, Va., gives us the following favorable account of the effect of agricultural papers in improving the husbandry of his neighborhood: "When I commenced farming, I determined to try the new system of husbandry, because I saw the old plan would not do; farmers were all going backwards, or getting poorer every year; my new neighbors laughed at me, when they saw me occupying so much of my time in hauling mud and sods from the swamps to put in my manure pile, and asked where I got that notion from. My reply was, from the Cultivator. They laughed still more, and called me the book farmer, said I would soon find out my folly, and go back to the good old custom, as they call it. Many of those men have acknowledged since, that I have been pursuing the right plan. I have now eight barrels of corn growing, where six years ago one barrel could not be grown; and all my information has been derived from agricultural papers. Some of my neighbors, for two or three years past, have been taking the Cultivator, and you can perceive an improvement upon their farms already. They are now not content to put up with the bare necessaries of life. A spirit of improvement seems to have taken hold of them; they begin to cultivate improved varieties of fruit for market and their families; thus adding profit and pleasure, where neither could be found before they began to read agricultural papers."—*Cultivator.*

To Destroy Lice on Cattle.—Grease, fat lard, or any oily substance, if applied to neat cattle infested with pediculi, will have the desired effect; it must be applied by being well rubbed into the hair on those parts where the vermin are found, and repeated until they are destroyed. Insects have no lungs, but breath by spiracles or minute holes in their bodies, and if these spiracles are clogged with grease or fat, they become suffocated and die. Goose grease, hog's fat, pot-skimmings, will all answer the purpose, and may be obtained in any farmer's family without cost. Tobacco, also, will kill these vermin on cattle, by its operation on them as poison. A simple infusion of tobacco, applied warm and rubbed into the neck or dew-laps, or wherever found, so as to completely wet the hairs, and repeated at an interval of a few days, will destroy the nits and lice in a short time and at a cheap rate. The curry comb should be used after the application.—*Selected.*

"*Never too late to do good.*"—A distinguished friend at Braintree, in Massachusetts, who this year gathered several hundred barrels of apples from trees grafted with his own hands since he retired from successful mercantile business in the city, who, away from any thick settlement, has refused the offer of a thousand dollars for a single acre of standing orchard, who has upon his premises two hundred varieties of apples and nearly as many more of pears—lately furnished the editor of the Visitor the following memorandum:—

"Rev. Ebenezer Cobb, of Kingston, Mass., began to set out an orchard at the age of seventy-years. His neighbors remonstrated, as he could not expect to enjoy the fruits of it. They thought Mr. Cobb deranged in mind to make such a rash attempt. His answer was that of the practical Christian—that from his ancestors he had enjoyed the fruits of their labors, and he was anxious to do something in that line for posterity. He lived till he was 107 years, 8 months, and 10 days old, and enjoyed the fruit of his labor."—*Far. Mon. Visitor.*

MASS. SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.

Reports on Premiums offered at the Worcester Exhibition.

On Subsoil Plows and Carts.

The Committee, consisting of Morrill Allen, of Pembroke, (county of Plymouth,) Daniel Tenney, of Sutton, (county of Worcester,) John W. Proctor, of Danvers, (county of Essex,) Henry Colt, of Pittsfield, (county of Berkshire,) and Charles L. Tarbell, of Lincoln, (county of Middlesex,) to whom were referred the premiums offered by the Mass. Society for Promoting Agriculture, for "the best subsoil plow, and for the best cart or wagon, on improved principles," have attended to that duty, and report:

That three patterns of the subsoil plow were presented to the committee, by Charles Howard, of Hingham. No. 1, a plow of medium size, with one share or wing on the right. No. 2, a plow of medium size, with two shares or wings, one on the right, the other on the left. No. 3, a plow of large size, with two shares or wings, one on the right, the other on the left.

The medium size plows appeared to be designed to stir the earth from 6 to 9 inches below the bottom of the first furrow, as might be desired, the same being regulated by a roller on the fore part of the beam, as are other plows. The large plow was designed to move the earth from 3 to 6 inches deeper than the others, and regulated in the same manner.

The committee tried each of these plows, and tested the power required to move them, by the use of the dynamometer; and as they had not the plows of any other manufacturers with which to compare them, (a fact that they deeply regretted, as they know that other manufacturers have been anxious to accommodate the public with plows of this description,) they endeavored to compare them with each other.

The result of this comparison was a preference for the medium size plow, No. 2, with a share or wing on each side. The committee thought this plow easiest guided, and by moving in the centre of the furrow, that it finished the work in a more satisfactory manner. They also found the power required to move it, in performing work of the same depth, was about one-sixth part less than either of the other plows.

The committee were pleased with the *neatness* and *firmness* of structure of all these plows, characteristics which have distinguished all the plows of Mr Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility*, and not *show*, are their peculiar features. The committee noticed some points in which they thought improvements might be made, of minor importance, which on being suggested to Mr Howard, met his approbation. They found the handles of the plows about three feet two inches high. This form required *some* of the committee, at least, to stoop more than was convenient, in holding the plow. They think the maker did not take into consideration, in affixing the handles, that these plows sink deeper in the earth than common surface plows, and therefore that the height of the handles should be proportionably increased, say from 6 to 9 inches. They found the plow with one wing or share rather too much inclined to the land; and the pressure occasioned by this inclination, increased the power necessary to move it.

The committee do not profess to be much experienced in the use of the *subsoil plow;* but from what they have this day seen, and have heretofore learned respecting it, they are satisfied that it needs only to be *seen* and *used*, to be admired. They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface plow at the same depth, and they found the plough might be guided with less labor and fatigue than the surface plow.

The committee made an experiment by passing this plow under the sod, to the depth of 9 inches, with furrows about 20 inches apart, without turning the sod; and they believe that such an operation might be applied in *many* fields, with great benefit—especially those fields where there is a superabundance of water on the surface at some seasons, which operates to check the growth of the grass, and sour its quality.

The committee believe that the operations of the subsoil plow will be found useful both on lands that are liable to be too wet, and on lands that are liable to be too dry. The loosening of the lower strata of earth will in the one case give an opportunity for the superabundant water to settle away; and in the other, it will afford opportunity for the extension of the roots and fibres of plants, that will sustain them against the scorching influences of a burning sun, in periods of drought.

The committee cannot perceive any possible injury to the land, or disadvantage that may accrue from the use of the subsoil plow. They have the authority of those who have been most accustomed to its use, in this country, and in England and Scotland, for saying that it is a highly valuable implement for the farmers, and one that should be found on every farm .

They therefore confidently recommend the subsoil plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth, and that they should prove them by their works, and hold fast upon those which are good.

As to Mr Howard, they are satisfied with the quality of his work and the finish of his plows—and recommend that the first premium offered of $12, for plows of this description, be awarded to him.

They do not award the second premium offered, because they believe it was not the design of the Trustees, that any man should enter into competition with himself.

The Committee made diligent search for a wagon, to carry the liberal bounty offered for that article—but none such could be found. They believe that there are many ingenious mechanics among the Yankees, who, if they had been duly apprised of the *golden apples* within their reach, would not have been slow in exhibiting their claims to merit them.

They cannot but hope, if these or similar premiums should again be offered, that there will be no want of competition, and that highminded men will not suffer trifling disappointments or ill-founded jealousies to divert them from the duty they owe the public.

For the Committee.

J. W. PROCTOR, *Chm'n.*

Worcester, Oct. 10, 1844.

On Fat Cattle.

The committee on Fat Cattle, consisting of Morrill Allen, of Pembroke, (Plymouth county,) Hiram Copeland, of Easton, (Bristol county,) Henry Shephard, of Northamptor (Hampshire county,) Joseph Richardson, of Fitchburg, (Worcester county,) and Alexander Wright, of Lowell, (Middlesex county,) respectfully report to the Trustees of the Mass. Agricultural Society, that five fat oxen were entered for premiums—two by Mr John Marland, of Andover, 6 years old, full blooded Durham, weight, 5210 pounds: one by Mr Seth Wyman, of Shrewsbury, 5 years old, native, weight 2380 lbs.; two by Messrs. L. & E. L. Barnard, of Worcester, 6 years old, one-fourth Durham; weight of the ox to which premium is awarded, 2170 lbs. And two steers, by Mr Ephraim Turner, of Phillipston.

The statements which accompany this report, while they show something of the manner of feeding, preclude the possibility of determining which mode was the most profitable. This the Trustees desired to ascertain, and knowledge on this point would manifestly be of much importance to the community. One person verbally stated how much his bullock had gained in a given number of months, but in the absence of similar statements from other applicants, we had no means of judging which course of feeding had produced the greatest quantity of flesh, proportionate to the expense, excepting the appearance of the animals. Appearances are often deceptive: and it is not an unfrequent occurrence that some of the attending multitude censure the decisions of committees as partial and unjust, perhaps without duly considering that far less labor is required in pronouncing a judgment on a decision, in passing, than is necessary in *forming a correct* decision. We regret that no more information interesting to the public on the results of different methods, in feeding, is placed in our power. Persons intending to apply for premiums on fattened animals, might with very little expense or labor, weigh them at the commencement of the fattening process, and again at the exhibition: this would certainly prove an important help in making up judgment, if not an effectual security against mistakes.

All the oxen exhibited were creditable to the Show; some of them exceeded, in well proportioned form, and fatness, any animals ever before seen by at least one of the committee. After as critical an examination as our time would allow, we agreed with great unanimity, to recommend the following awards, viz:

To John Marland, for his near ox, the first premium, $30; for his off ox, the second, $25.

To Seth Wyman, for his red ox, the third, $15.

To L. & E. L. Barnard, the fourth, $10.

To Ephraim Turner, for his speckled steer, the first premium, $20.

Several fat oxen and steers were in the pens for exhibition only. The owners are commended for their liberal and successful efforts in adding to the interest of the Show. Mr Wyman, of Shrewsbury, presented for exhibition only, a very extraordinary cow, both for size and fatness. He would have obliged the Society and the public much more, had his liberality extended a little farther, in an accurate account of the manner in which the animal had been kept.

The committee have pleasure in recommending that an allowance for travel be made to each of the persons who have exhibited fattened animals, and are situated more than 15 miles from the place of exhibition. For the Committee,

MORRILL ALLEN.

Worcester, Oct. 10*th*, 1844.

Mr Marland's Statement.

The undersigned having presented a pair of oxen for exhibition and a premium, would respect-

fully make the following statement in relation to them.

They came into his possession by purchase, about the 15th day of last Outober, and have been kept by him, as follows:

For the first two months they ate, each, six quarts of cob-meal per day, and were put to work. From that time until about the last of May, they ate, each, daily, two bushels of roots, mostly, ruta baga, and three pecks of cob-meal. From that time until August 27th, they were kept in the pasture and ate, each, daily, one peck of clean meal.

They were then put up to feed and since that time have eaten about twenty quarts, each, daily, of clean meal.

When they have been kept up, they have had as much hay as they desired to eat.

The absence of the former owner, at this time, has prevented me from giving that account of them before they came into my possession, which I otherwise should have done.

They were exhibited at the Cattle Show in Concord, Middlesex county, last year, and obtained the first premium.

The former owner resides in Middlesex county, and I should have entered them as having had a premium in that county, instead of Essex county.

I purchased the oxen of Mr —— Sheldon, of Wilmington.

It was not my intention, until recently, to present them at any Cattle Show; but as they have latterly made such improvement in their appearance, I have thought them worthy of exhibition at Worcester.

Should proof be required of the fact that they have received a former premium, as above stated, it will be furnished hereafter. I sent to Mr Sheldon this day, and should have obtained his testimony, had he not been absent.

Yours, with great respect,

JOHN MARLAND.

Andover, Oct. 9, 1844.

—

Mr Wyman's Statement.

This is to certify that my five years' old ox was raised by Mr A. Pond, of Shrewsbury, and was 5 years old last April. He was taken from the yoke in May, 1843, at which time I bought him.

He has had meal as follows: 4 quarts per day, from December 1st, 1843, to June 1st, 1844, and from July 1st to Sept. 17th.

And that my five years old oxen were raised by Mr Solomon Davis, of Rutland. They were taken from the yoke in June last, and have been fatted entirely by grass.

And, also, that my four years' old steers were raised by Mr Lemuel Smith, of Spencer. They have worked all the summer and fall, and have had no feed but grass.

SETH WYMAN.

—

L. & E. L. Barnard's Statement.

To the Committee on Fat Cattle:—We have entered five fat oxen for premium, to wit:

One ox, 5 years old, weight 2610 lbs.: has had no other keeping but hay and grass, except from 6 to 8 qts. of meal during the last winter.

One ox, 6 years old, worked till one year since; had from 3 to 4 qts. of meal the last winter—nothing but hay and grass since: weighs 2375 lbs.

One ox, 6 years old, weight 2170 lbs.; grass fed, with the exception of a few potatoes in the spring.

Two oxen, 6 years old, worked till April last; grass fed; weight 4065 lbs.

The above cattle were all raised in Worcester county, and are 1-4 Durham, 3-4 native breed.

LEWIS & EBEN. L. BARNARD.

Worcester, Oct. 8, 1844.

—

Mr Turner's Statement.

To the Committee on Three Year Old Steers:—This may certify that I raised the steers that you will find entered by me. The red steer was 3 years old the 26th day of March, and the speckled one 6 days younger: they are of the improved Short Horned Durham breed. I raised the cows that brought them, and owned one-third of the bull that sired them. They sucked the cows that brought them, till eleven weeks old; but did not take all that the cows gave. Since that time they have been kept the same as I keep the most of my young cattle—on hay and grass. They were yoked when young, so that my boy could drive them well. Were weaned at eleven weeks old, and have been worked ever since (not hard,) till the red one got lame last spring.

The cows that brought the steers, was half blooded Durham; the bull, full-blood, of the improved Short-Horned Durham breed.

The steers were weighed at Templeton, after being driven six or seven miles. Their weight was 3350 lbs. EPH'M TURNER.

Phillipston, Oct. 5, 1844.

Care of Young Stock.—The first winter for young stock is the most trying one of their lives, and extra care should always be given to them, especially in their feed. In addition to what they will eat of the finest and best of the hay, lambs and calves should have a few roots daily, except in very cold weather. In feeding them, be careful not to give so many as to scour them. It may be well, also, to feed the lambs a gill each per day of beans, peas, oats, or corn, which are preferred in the order mentioned. For calves, shorts or bran is preferable to grain. Colts ought to have two quarts of oats per day, except occasionally changing this feed to three quarts of bran. Oil meal is most excellent food, in small quantities, for all sorts of stock, especially calves and pigs. It keeps the bowels free and healthy, and makes them eat their other food with a greater relish. Young stock ought always to be sheltered by themselves: they thus escape injury from those more grown, and have a fair chance at their food. Colts must not stand upon a plank floor, or indeed a hard footing of any kind, the first winter: if they do, it is apt to give them the ring-bone. Their pastern joints are disproportionably weak during the first year, which makes an elastic footing requisite for them. —*Amer. Agriculturist.*

Remedy for Rot in Potatoes.—A friend calling upon us a few days since, in the course of conversation, gave us the following account of his method of saving his potatoes from the rot: During the last two years I have examined numerous potato fields, and invariably found the vines early in the season completely covered with a species of flea: at a late period, the tops of the same vines appeared brown prematurely. On cutting them open, I discovered a small insect, having numerous legs, and I think they sucked the sap which should have gone to the nourishment of the tubers, and the rot consequently ensued.

In the year 1843, I planted a field of several acres in drills, harrowed the ground level, and top-dressed it with lime and charcoal dust. The yield was 432 bushels per acre: at the same time the potatoes throughout the neighborhood were decayed. This year I planted the same seed in the following manner: The ground was thrown into drills and manured heavily: the potatoes were cut into sets of single eyes fourteen days before required for planting, and covered with plaster and lime; they were then placed in the drill, 9 inches apart, and each alternate three rows covered with different substances, such as lime, sulphate of ammonia, silicate of potash, &c. When dug, they were all sound except a few rows on which nothing had been used but the manure, and these were decayed. The only reason I can give why my potatoes have escaped the rot is, that the above substances used in dressing them were offensive to the insect.—*Ibid.*

To Destroy Rats.—The following recipe for the destruction of rats, has been communicated by Dr. Ure to the council of the English Agricultural Society, and is highly recommended as the best known means of getting rid of these most obnoxious and destructive vermin. It has been tried by several intelligent persons, and found perfectly effectual:

"Melt hog's lard in a bottle plunged in water heated to about 150° Fahrenheit; introduce into it half an ounce of phosphorus for every pound of lard; then add a pint of proof-spirit or whiskey; cork the bottle firmly after its contents have been heated to 150°, taking it at the same time out of the water, and agitate smartly till the phosphorus becomes uniformly diffused, forming a milky-looking liquid. This liquid being cooled, will afford a white compound of phosphorus and lard, from which the apirit spontaneously separates, and may be poured off to be used again, for none of it enters into the combination, but it merely serves to comminute the phosphorus, and diffuse it in very fine particles through the lard. This fatty compound, on being warmed very gently, may be poured out into a mixture of wheat-flour and sugar incorporated therewith, and then flavored with oil of rhodium, or not, at pleasure. The flavor may be varied with oil of anisseed, &c. This dough being made into pellets, is to be laid in rat-holes. By its luminousness in the dark, it attracts their notice, and being agreeable to their palates and noses, it is readily eaten, and proves certainly fatal. They soon are seen issuing from their lurking places to seek for water to quench their burning thirst and bowels; and they commonly die near the water. They continue to eat it as long as it is offered to them, without being deterred by the fate of their fellows, as is known to be the case with arsenical doses. It may be an easy guide for those who are desirous of following Dr. Ure's prescription, and may not have a thermometer at hand, to know that a temperature of 150° of Fahrenheit is equivalent to a degree of heat midway between that at which white of egg congulates and white wax melts."—*Ib.*

Hints for the Season.—Settle all your accounts collect what is due you, and pay what you owe. "Short settlements make long friends." Communicate your discoveries to some agricultural periodical, for the benefit of the world. Summer is peculiarly the time for making observations, and winter the time for communicating them.—*Amer. Agriculturist.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1844.

BEMENT'S AMERICAN POULTERER'S COMPANION.

"The American Poulterer's Companion—A Practical Treatise on the Breeding, Rearing, Fattening and General Management of the various species of Domestic Poultry, with Illustrations and Portraits of Fowls taken from life. By C. N. Bement, Albany" Published by Saxton & Miles, New York. For sale by Joseph Breck & Co. Price, $1 25.

We have read with much pleasure, Mr Bement's book, and can confidently recommend it to all who feel interested in the subject of poultry—not only to those who desire to make it a profitable business, but to those also who engage in it as a source of pleasure,—for there are those who derive as much pleasure from their fancy fowls as the florist does from his beds of fancy flowers.

Mr Bement is perfectly familiar with the subject on which he writes, having from youth taken a great interest in all kinds of domestic stock, especially poultry. We were at his place a few years since, and were witness to his great variety of fancy as well as other common fowls of different species, and also to his judicious management of them.

Various works on poultry have been written, mostly of foreign production, or compiled by American authors without practical knowledge. These works are generally ill-adapted to the wants of the American farmer, containing much extraneous matter, and not suited to our climate. A work by some practical American, has been much needed, and it was necessary that the writer should not only be well acquainted with all the details of the subject from his own personal experience, but that he should also be a close observer of other men's practices and modes of management, and with much research examined what others had written upon the subject. From what we know of Mr Bement personally, and from his well established reputation in the raising of stock, generally, we believe that a book emanating from him will be as safe a guide to the young poulterer as from any other person in the country.

The Introduction, comprising the 1st chapter of the work, contains some general remarks relative to the importance of the subject of rearing poultry—on the demand for, and profitableness of it near great cities—its importance to the mechanic as well as the farmer, for their own pleasure, comfort, &c. It also contains some interesting statistics.

Chapter 2d, contains some remarks on propagation and crossing; acquaintance of the nature and habits of poultry, &c. In speaking of the beauty of fowls, the author remarks: "The plumage of birds has always formed an object of pleasing contemplation. The God of nature has shown by it his love of spreading beauty over all his works, and opening up every source for the pure enjoyment of man. The splendid coloring of many of our domestic fowls is not necessary in itself, and must have been bestowed as a means of pleasure to the beholder. * * The greater number of cocks, even of the most common kind, are most beautifully penciled, and when exposed to the play of the sun's rays, exhibit the brightest hues, almost rivalling the gorgeous coloring of the rainbow. The hens are sometimes spotted with great beauty and regularity: some white and silvery—others, by their bright orange tints, appearing golden, while of the most common kinds there is an almost endless variety. In their colors they embrace the opposite extremes of light and shade, and all the tints that lie between them."

Chapter 3d, treats of the Fecundity of Hens, Expenses and Profits. "With respect to fecundity, some hens will only lay one egg in three days, some every other day, and others every day. According to our experience, much depends on circumstances—such as climate, accommodations, feed and attentions paid to the hens, as to the number of eggs annually produced."

The number of eggs that a hen, when well fed and attended, will annually produce, appears to be variously estimated by different writers to whom Mr Bement refers. For instances—Buffon estimates that a hen will produce 150 eggs a year, and two broods of chickens. Another writer says, that "A dozen hens, properly attended, will furnish a family with more than 2000 eggs per year, and 100 chickens." But Mr B. says, "From our experience, we think this an over-estimate, especially for this cold climate. From 70 to 75 eggs per hen a year, would be a fair estimate for any number of fowls kept together. A friend living on Staten Island, informed him that he had 55 hens which averaged 91 eggs each hen a year, and another, who resided in the city, who kept from 25 to 30 hens, stated that they averaged 94 eggs per annum, to each one, while in 1844, from 71 hens, Mr Bement obtained upon an average only 50 eggs from each hen, and 1843 from 69 hens an average of 58 eggs to each one. "In order to ascertain by demonstration, and to satisfy ourself whether the keeping of fowls were profitable or not, we commenced, in 1842, keeping debit and credit account with the poultry yard. We had 71 hens, 12 cocks, 2 ducks, 2 drakes, 3 turkies, 1 turkey cock, 5 geese and 2 ganders—in all, 98 head. They consumed within the year as follows:

91 bushels of wheat screenings at 21 cts.	$19 11
6 do. rye, at 5s. (N. Y. currency)	3 75
11 do. millet, at 5s. do.	6 62
2 do. Indian corn, at 5s. do.	1 25
3 do. barley, at 4s. do.	1 50
2 do. Indian meal, at 8s. do.	2 00
10 do. small potatoes, 1s. do.	1 25
	$35 48
"We obtained 3509 eggs valued at	35 09
Sold fowls for	2 00
3 geese for	2 50
6 consumed in the family,	2 25
5 turkeys do.	1 88
30 fowls do.	5 62
60 ducks' eggs do.	83
54 geese eggs,	1 62
8 lbs. geese feathers, at 5s.	5 00
	$56 79
From which deduct	35 48
Nett profit,	$21 31

"Now from the foregoing, it would seem that the profits are very small, but it must be recollected that the sale prices are very low, and that we had the misfortune to lose many of our chickens by the hawks, and the greater part of our goslings by confining them in the yard, when they should have had the run of a pasture, which would have saved considerable food, and probably the lives of the goslings, and would have made some difference in the credit side. We lost many of our turkies in the same way. The experience of this year has taught us that it will not answer to keep or confine goslings or turkies after they are half grown.

"In 1843, the care of the poultry was entrusted to my son, a lad of 15 years of age, and the following is his account, rendered on the 1st of January, 1844:

Poultry Yard,	Dr.
To 69 hens on hand, valued at	$25 87½
15 cocks, "	7 50
3 turkeys, "	1 87½
7 geese, "	7 00
1 fancy duck, "	1 00
1 Guinea fowl, "	25
71 bushels wheat screenings, at 15½ cts.	11 25
4 do. millet, at 50 cts.	2 00
14½ do. corn, at 42 cts.	6 00
30 do. oats, at 24 cts.	7 26
8 do. potatoes (small,) at 25 cts.	2 00
32 fowls purchased,	15 00
3 turkeys do.	1 13
	$88 14
Poultry Yard,	**Cr.**
By 3978 hens eggs,	$39 78
175 turkeys. geese and ducks' eggs,	2 56
41 fowls sold for	46 31
30 consumed in family,	7 06
11 died; 5 presented to friends.	
5 geese sold,	7 00
2 do. consumed,	2 00
2 turkeys do.	1 00
1 died.	
32 bushels manure sold for	6 00
54 hens on hand,	20 25
15 cocks do	9 00
6 geese,	6 00
1 duck,	1 00
10 turkies,	5 00
2 Guinea fowls,	50
	$153 46
Deduct	88 14
Net profit,	$65 32

The 4th chapter treats upon feeding and fattening: after stating several experiments in feeding with different sorts of grain, the author says: "We may therefore safely estimate that a barn-door fowl of common size, having as much as she can eat during the day, will consume

	Parts of a pint.
Of oats, barley, or buckwheat,	8-32
Of wheat,	6-32
Of corn,	5-32
Of rye,	3-32"

After detailing various experiments with cooked and uncooked food, it is clearly proved "that in every case where the price of corn, barley or wheat renders it eligible to feed poultry therewith, there is considerable economy in never giving the grain dry, but well boiled; and there is no saving by boiling oats, buckwheat or rye."

The importance and mode of constructing poultry houses and yards, is the subject of chapter 5th, in which are descriptions of Queen Victoria's poultry palace down to the most humble fowl-house.

Chapter 6th, Furniture and Accessories to the Poultry house.

Chapter 7th, Gallinaceous Fowls.

Chapter 8th, Domestic varieties, in which the author describes 21 different sorts that have come under his observation, most of the varieties being illustrated with plates, with copious descriptions of their various properties and comparative value. Also, as many other varieties or sub-varieties which he has seen described in other works.

The remaining five chapters treat of the Pea-fowl, Wild Turkey, Domestic Turkey, Guinea Hen, Duck, Incubation, Feeding and Fattening, Diseases of Poultry, Preparing Poultry for market, Preserving it in winter, Preservation of eggs, Caponizing, &c.

Mr Bement's efforts in producing this work, have, we think, been eminently successful; it contains much useful information on the subjects of which it treats, and will tend to systemize poultry management, and render it a little more pleasant and profitable than it has heretofore been to many. We trust the work will meet that patronage from the farming community, which its merits deserve.

☞We are obliged to Hon. J. S. Skinner for a copy of his edition of "Clatter and Youatt's Cattle Doctor." We shall notice the work in our next.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Gardenof the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Dec. 8.

Dec. 1844.		7 A M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	2	23	34	29	N E.
Tuesday,	3	27	36	33	E.
Wednesday,	4	34	35	35	N.
Thursday,	5	39	42	36	N.
Friday,	6	32	39	38	N.
Saturday,	7	41	54	54	E.
Sunday,	8	30	27	24	N. W.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Dec. 9, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 550 Beef Cattle, 200 Stores, 2800 Sheep and 1300 Swine.

Prices — *Beef Cattle* —We quote to correspond with last week, extra $5. First quality, $4 50 a 4,75 Second quality, $4 a 4,25. Third quality, $3 a 3,50.

Sheep.—Sales from $1,25 to 2,00.

Swine.—Selected lots to peddle, 3 for Sows and 4 for Barrows. A lot of fat hogs from a Distillery not sold. At retail from 3 1-2 to 5.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $1 37 a 1 50 per bushel. Red Top 50 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 9 to 11c.—Southern, 7 a 9 c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $1 37 a 1 75 per bushel.

GRAIN. The market for Grain has been fairly supplied the past week, and large sales have been made at our quotations. Good old mealing Corn is yet scarce, and would command our highest rate.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 00—Southern, round yellow, 58 a 59—Southern flat yellow, 56 a 58—do. do. white 52 a 53—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 75 a 77—do. Southern, 70 a 75 —Oats, Southern, 00 a 35 — Northern do. 35 to 36—Beans, per bushel 1 50 a 2 00.—Shorts, per double bush. 25 a 30—Bran, 21 a 24

FLOUR The market is exceedingly heavy. Transactions of the week are altogether confined to the wants of dealers for the supply of the retail trade, except a few parcels Southern taken for foreign shipment.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $4 75 a 4 81 —do. wharf, $0 00 a 0 00—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00 —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 62 a 4 75 — Fredericksburg, low l'd new $4 67 a 4 75—Alexandria, wharf, 4 67 a 4 75 —Georgetown, $4 75 a 4 87—Extra do. 0 00 a 5 00—Richmond Canal, $4 67 a 4 75—do. City, $5 50 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $5 00 a 5 50—do. Country $4 62 a 4 75—Genesee, common, cash, $4 87 a 5 00 — do fancy brands $5 00 a 5 37—Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $4 87 a 5 00. Rye, $0 00 a 3 25—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 12 a 2 75.

PROVISIONS. The transactions in Mess Beef have been at $8 for new packed, at which 400 brls were taken, 4 mos. and some parcels $7 75 do. cash. Sales Pork moderate; Prime is nearly all out of market, and the stock of Mess is materially reduced.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $0 00 a 8 00—Navy—$6 75 a 7 00.—No. 1, $0 00 a 6 00—do Prime $0 00 a 0 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $00 00 a 00 00—do Clear $10 00 a 10 50 do. Mess, $9 00 a 9 50—do Prime $7 00 a 7 50—do Mess from other States — a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00— Butter, shipping, 00 a 00—do store, uninspected, 10 a 13—do dairy, 20 cts. a 22—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 00 a 0 —do South and Western, 5½ a 6¼— Hams, Boston, 7 a 00 — Southern and Western, 5 a 6—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4 —do new milk, 4 a 5½.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts per pound.

The sales of the week have been limited. Prices are nominally lower than they were at shearing time, but as yet the market is unsettled. The stock of coarse foreign has been increased by several late arrivals.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 45 a 50 c.—American full blood, do 40 a 42—Do. 3-4 do 37 a 38—Do. 1-2 do 35 a 36 -1-4 and common do 30 a 32 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 22—Do. unwashed, 10 a 15 — Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean. 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 14—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 40 a 41—No. 1 do. do. do. 35 a 37—No. 2 do do do 23 a 30—No. 3 do do do 14 a 18.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

But few remain in the growers' hands, and holders of large parcels are asking an advance on our last quotations. The accounts of the English market, per Caledonia, though less favorable, do not vary, materially, from those previously received.

1st sort Mass. 1843, lb. 13 a 14 ; 2d do 0 a 0.

HAY, 15 to 16 per ton—Eastern Screwed $11 50 to 11 50.

EGGS, 15 to 20.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural Warehouse
AND
SEED STORE.

51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. having received a full and general assortment of FIELD, GRASS, GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, worthy of cultivation, confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities, unmixed with other varieties; they have no hesitation in saying that their collection of Seeds is the best, and of the greatest variety ever offered for sale at any establishment in the U. States.

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS of all kinds, constantly on hand.

AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, among which are the following, viz :—1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs, 200 Common do. do, 200 Cultivators, 100 Greene's Straw Cutters, 50 Willis' do. do. 100 Common do. do, 100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers, 50 Common do. do, 200 Willis' Seed Sowers, 50 do. Vegetable Cutters, 50 Common do. do., 200 Hand Corn Mills, 200 Grain Cradles, 100 Ox Yokes, 1500 Doz. Scythe Stones, 3000 do. Austin's Rifles, 100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels, 150 do. Common do. 100 do. Spades, 500 do. Grass Scythes, 300 do. Patent Snaiths, 200 do Common do., 500 do. Hay Rakes, 200 do. Garden do., 200 do. Manure Forks, 300 do. Hay do. 500 Pair Trace Chains, 100 do, Truck do. 100 do Draft do, 500 do. Tie up do, 50 doz Halter do, 1000 yards Fence do, 25 Grind Stones on Rollers.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,
N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street. Boston.

WILLIS'S
Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter.

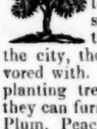
For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them : this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
Nov. 1.

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.
JO. BRECK & CO.

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.



JOSEPH BRECK & CO. have for sale a large assortment of choice Fruit and Ornamental Trees, which they offer to the public at reasonable rates; as they are agents for many of the best nurseries and gardens in the vicinity of the city, they can execute any order that they may be favored with. The present time is a suitable season for transplanting trees and shrubbery. From their own nurseries they can furnish the best varieties of Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum, Peach, Apricot, Nectarine, Grape, Gooseberry, Currant, &c. Also, Ornamental Plants of every description.
Boston, Oct. 8, 1844.

CAST IRON SLED SHOES

For double and single Runners, of all sizes, also, Barn Door Rollers, from 3 to 10 inches, for sliding doors, for sale by HENRY RICHARDS,
Dec. 7, 1844. No. 109, State street

FARM FOR SALE.

The Farm formerly owned by Mr. James Vila, in Lexington, one mile from the meeting house, on the Lincoln road, containing 170 acres of excellent land, under a good state of cultivation ; about 25 acres covered with a thrifty growth of wood, with a spacious garden, containing about one acre, tastefully layed out, and stocked with a variety of choice fruit, together with a Green House and Grapery. There is a good substantial Dwelling House, containing 14 rooms, and well adapted for two families; an excellent well of soft water, under cover, and a large Wood House. There are two Barns, one 75 by 40, the other 40 by 30, with a Cider Mill attached. There are two Sheds, one 50 by 18 feet, the other 40 by 20 feet. Also, a good Chaise House. Said buildings are all in good repair. Said Farm is well watered, having a never failing stream of water running through it, within eight rods of the buildings. Said Farm produces about 80 tons of English Hay yearly, and is well adapted for a Milk Farm. For further particulars inquire of Mr. JAMES VILA, Bath street, Boston, or the subscriber on the premises. WILLIAM FORBES.
Nov. 10, 1844.

GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS.

The subscribers are now receiving their fall supply of Garden, Field and Grass Seeds, and would respectfully recommend to their customers to send in their orders as early as possible to secure a supply from their choicest lots. Their stock of seeds for this season will be very full and complete, and most of the varieties being raised under their own inspection they can confidently recommend them as being fresh and genuine. Among them are Long Blood, Early Turnip and Sugar Beets; Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, Orange Carrot, Radish, Cucumber and Cabbage of sorts. Also, Peas, Beans and Squashes, which together with a large supply of most kinds of seed desirable for the field or garden, comprise the most complete and extensive assortment of seeds to be found at any similar establishment in the country. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
Oct. 2.

TRACE CHAINS.

The subscribers have for sale a fine assortment of Trace and Tie-up Chains. JOS. BRECK & CO ,
At N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store.
Oct. 2.

CIDER MILL FOR SALE.

A first rate Cider Mill, with good Screws, in complete order, will be sold cheap, by JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
July 23.

BARN DOOR ROLLERS AND IRON RODS

For sliding Doors, Axletrees, Steel Springs, and Tire Iron for sale by H RICHARDS,
Sept. 18. No. 109, State Street

HOES.

The best kind in the Market For sale by
JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

HYACINTHS, TULIPS, &c.

The subscribers offer for sale a choice collection of Hyacinths, embracing double and single, red, rose, white, blue, yellow, and every shade. Also, Tulips, Lillies, Pæonies, Crocus, and every variety of bulbous and tuberous roots.
JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
Boston, Oct. 15, 1844.

MILK ESTABLISHMENT FOR SALE.

The subscriber being about to relinquish the milk business, offers for sale, his entire milk establishment, consisting of 23 Cows, 1 Milk Cart and Wagon, and an excellent run of custom. JOHN PARKINSON,
Oct. 16, 1844. Walnut Street, Roxbury.

CHEESE PRESSES.

Self-acting and other Cheese Presses, of the most approved kinds, for sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, 52 North Market street, by J. BRECK & Co.

AFRICAN GUANO.

The cargo of the brig Samos, just arrived direct from Africa. This Guano has been analyzed by J. E. Teschemacher, Esq., and pronounced by him as fully equal to the best cargoes received in the London or Liverpool markets. Purchasers can depend on this as being the *genuine* article. For sale, in quantities to suit, by
CHARLES HOFFMAN, Salem.
VERNON BROWN, 5 Merchants' Exchange.
J. BRECK & CO. 51 & 52 N. Market St., up stairs.
Sept. 17 3m.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ancient Customs.—Many of the old and singular customs of our forefathers, have disappeared, and the few which remain, however superstitious, are regarded with something like affection by those who love to trace the manner of the "olden time." In the county of Hereford, (Eng.) some of the Romish and feudal ceremonies are still practiced. On the eve of Old Christmas Day, there are thirteen fires lighted in the cornfields of many of the farms, twelve of them in a circle, and one, much larger than the rest, round a pole in the centre. These fires are dignified with the names of the Virgin Mary and Twelve Apostles, the lady being in the middle, and while they are burning, the laborers retire into some shed or outhouse, where they can behold the brightness of the Apostolic flame. Into this shed they lead a cow, on whose horn a large plum cake has been stuck, and having assembled round the animal, the oldest laborer takes a pail of cider, and addresses the following lines to the cow, with great solemnity; after which the verse is chanted in chorus by all present:

"Here 's to thy pretty face and thy white horn,
God send thy master a good crop of corn;
Both wheat, rye and barley, and all sorts of grain,
And next year, if we live, we 'll drink to thee again."

He then dashes the cider in the cow's face, when, by a violent toss of her head, she throws the plum cake on the ground; and if it fall forward, it is an omen that the harvest will be good; if backward, that it will be unfavorable. This is the ceremony at the commencement of the rural feast, which is generally prolonged till the following morning.—*Selected.*

Singular Circumstance.—We were informed yesterday, by a fisherman just in from a cruise, that during his absence he had seen a most singular phenomenon, the like of which has never been known in this latitude. The smack in which he was had been unsuccessful, but very few fish having been taken, and on many of the old fishing grounds not one could be found! In returning along the South shore of Long Island, their attention was attracted to the beach, which was literally strewed with dead fish just washed up by the sea. Black fish, cunners, lobsters and crabs, and many other species, which inhabit our shores at this season, lay promiscuously on the sand. On examining the well of the smack, it was discovered that the fish which they had taken were also dead. As far as the shore was examined eastward, toward Montauk Point, it was found to be covered alike with dead fish.

We are also informed that the smack Caroline, on Friday last, while about fifteen miles from land, passed through a "rip" of the sea, (formed by adverse tides, we suppose,) and that as far as could be seen in either direction, the "rip" was filled with dead fish. Soon after this, the well of the smack was examined, and every fish in it found to be dead.

These remarkable facts require scientific investigation. Similar phenomena have been observed in the Mediterranean, after a volcanic eruption on some of the neighboring mountains; and it is quite probable, we think, that the destruction of the finny tribe, noticed above, was caused by a like eruption at sea, near our coast.—*New London News, Nov.* 25.

An exchange paper calls it a "foolish experiment" to graft hog's tails upon pear trees to make them bear roasting pigs.

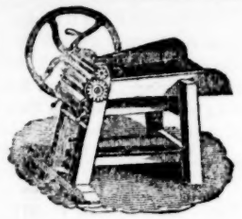
A Great Pumpkin Story.—At this season, the newspapers abound in paragraphs chronicling the existence of monstrous apples, enormous beets, mammoth squashes, and pumpkins approaching in size to young mountains. Some of these accounts seem almost incredible—but none that we have seen are hardly so marvellous as a description of a pumpkin, which grew on the Swamscot river, in New Hampshire, and which was related to us by a gentleman of undoubted veracity.

A farmer accidentally dropped a pumpkin seed on some rich alluvial land on the bank of the river, and a few weeks after, he was surprised to find an enormous vine growing there, with leaves as large as a dining table, and stem as large round as a hoe-handle. He did not visit the spot again till September, when he found that the pumpkin vine had increased amazingly, and had extended across the river, (which was about twenty rods wide in this place) and was lost in an alder swamp. He remarked that it was "mighty strange," and thought no more of it until the following spring, when he crossed the river *on the pumpkin vine*, and found, surrounded with bushes, a pumpkin of monstrous size, indeed! He gazed upon it with astonishment, and soon heard some strange sounds, which seemed to proceed from the heart of this enormous vegetable. Being rather a timid man, he hastened to some of his neighbors, told them the awful story, and requested their assistance. They armed themselves with axes, clubs, and pitchforks, and accompanied him to the spot. The most appalling noises still seemed to issue from the entrails of the pumpkin. But being resolute men, they resolved to fathom the mystery, and forthwith assaulted, and after about fifteen minutes' hard labor, cut open the pumpkin, when out bolted a monstrous sow, followed by her offspring, consisting of nine beautiful, thrifty pigs, about six weeks old. It appears that the farmer had missed the sow (then a poor, puny creature) in the fall, and after much search, had given her up for lost. Subsequent events, however, proved that she had crossed the river at that time on the pumpkin vine, and had eaten into the pumpkin, which furnished her with a habitation and food, and for her little ones, too, until she was so unceremoniously turned out of house and home.—*Boston Mercantile Journal.*

Perils of the Guano Trade.—Some seven crews engaged in this trade have had severe conflicts with the Arabs. Some sailors who were taken captives, had their wounds dressed by the Arabs in a style of surgery which few would relish. The natives used a rough knife and burned out the wounds with a red hot nail. While this terrible operation was going on, the Arab spectators were laughing. One of the captives had his skull fractured; they scraped his head very roughly twice a day, and filled the wound with a kind of powder. Their other operations were of a similar character.

A stump orator, wishing to describe his opponent as a *soulless* man, said:

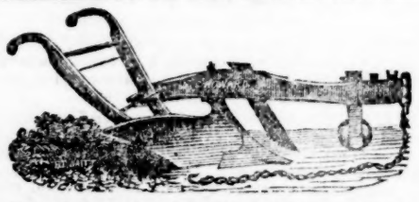
"I have heard some persons hold to the opinion that just at the precise moment after one human being dies, another is born; and that the soul enters and animates the new-born babe. Now I have made particular and extensive inquiries concerning my opponent *there*, and I find that for some hours previous to his nativity, *nobody died!* Fellow-citizens, you may draw the inference."



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.
2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.
3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.
4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard or rocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,
21 SCHOOL STREET.